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STAR WARS™

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NABOO ROYAL CRUISER

28

Senator Padmé Amidala's diplomatic vessel

Under attack

Advice for a Senator

DeAGOSTINI

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STAR WARS

When Padmé Amidala stood down as Queen of the Naboo, she was offered the opportunity to represent her people at the Galactic Senate on Coruscant. To assist her in her senatorial duties around the galaxy, she was given a unique vessel. Sometimes called the Naboo Cruiser, this elegant vessel was a work of art and incorporated many improvements over the Royal Starship that Amidala had used while Queen.

"SENATOR, WE'RE MAKING OUR FINAL APPROACH IN TO CORUSCANT."

NABOO LIEUTENANT

THE J-TYPE DIPLOMATIC BARGE

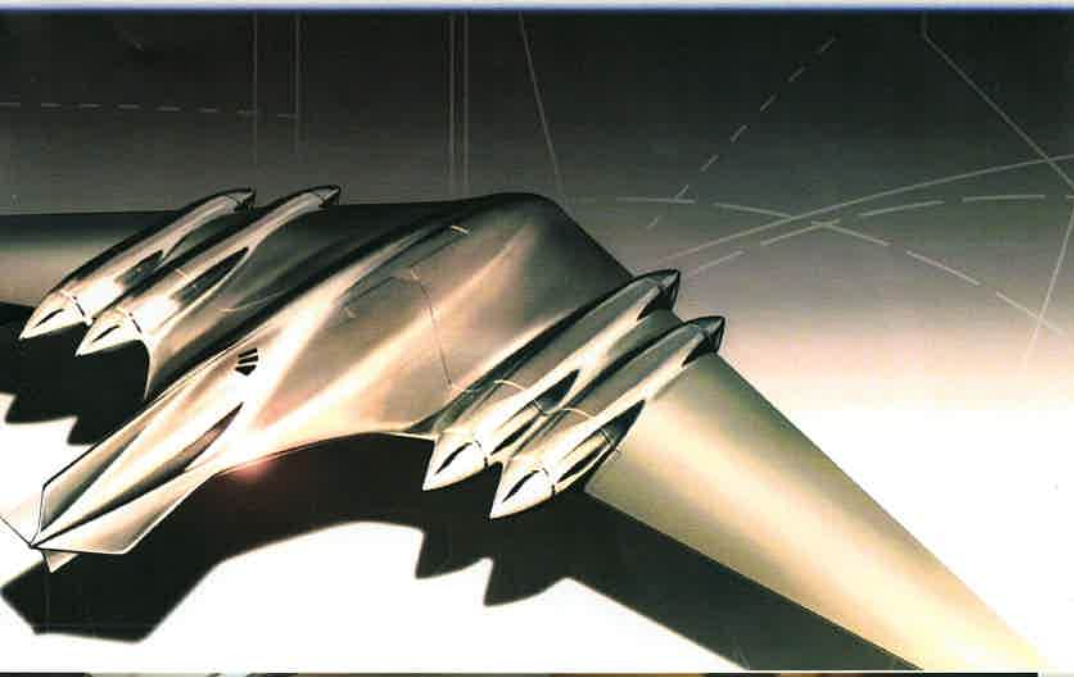
ELEGANCE AND EXPERIENCE

Few craft plying the skies of Coruscant would cause its jaded citizenry to pause a moment and just stare in wonder on their arrival. However, Senator Amidala's personal Diplomatic Barge was such a vessel.

The designers at the Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps learned valuable lessons from the experiences of the passengers and crew of the Royal Starship during Queen Amidala's dramatic escape from Naboo during the Trade Federation blockade of the planet. The J-type 327 Nubian had been fast and elegant, but it was also poorly shielded and had few back-up systems in the event of the ship taking damage. Reliance on astromech droids was all very well in the normal course of a vessel's operation, but when the ship was under fire, the very vulnerable droids became simply another target. With the galaxy sinking deeper into turmoil, and with Senator Amidala regularly having to put herself in potentially dangerous situations, she would require a ship that, while still staying true to Naboo aesthetics and beliefs, would offer her a greater degree of protection.

Royal Patronage

As with the Royal Starship, the spaceframe for the Diplomatic Barge was built by hand by the Theed Palace team. The majority of



its internal components came from the Nubian Design Collective, and the craft was assembled at the Theed Palace hangars. The chromium finish, normally reserved for ships used by Naboo royalty or those protecting them, was applied to the cruiser as a mark of the love and respect held by the peoples of Naboo, human and Gungan alike, for Padmé Amidala. More than simply allowing the chrome finish, Amidala's successor Queen Jamillia positively encouraged its use, resulting in the diplomatic craft having an all-over shine.

Lessons Learned

The Naboo Cruiser featured a number of improvements over the Royal Starship. Its shields were more powerful, and the system included redundant generator capacity in the event of the primary systems being damaged. After the near-disastrous failure of the T-14 hyperdrive generator during Amidala's blockade run, the diplomatic ship featured two Nubian S-6 hyperdrives and a number of backup sub-systems. Lastly, though the barge itself was unarmed, four N-1 starfighter recharge sockets, two in each wing, allowed the main craft to carry its own fighter escort.

INTO BATTLE!

EXPLOSIVE ARRIVAL

Senator Padmé Amidala had been representative of the Chommell Sector for only two years when she was targeted for assassination. Though the politics of the turbulent years before the Clone Wars did guarantee Padmé new enemies, the author of the assassination contract was an old adversary.

Twenty-four years before the Battle of Yavin, with her second term as Queen of the Naboo ending, Padmé Amidala turned down the offer of an unprecedented third term as elected monarch. Though she had planned to retire, Padmé was delighted instead to accept the position of Senator for Naboo and the entire Chommell Sector. However, her appointment propelled the young Senator into the growing Separatist Crisis.

The Grudge

Appointed to Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's Loyalist Committee, Amidala was one who attempted to negotiate peace with the Separatists, a move that was aborted in the wake of several terrorist attacks. That Amidala was targeted for

"We made it. I guess I was wrong, there was no danger at all."

Captain Typho

assassination was, perhaps, not surprising. She suspected that Count Dooku, leader of the Separatists, was behind the contract. It was more complex than that, in fact, as Amidala was a mere pawn in Dooku's game. The former Jedi was courting key figures of commerce and industry to join the Confederacy of Independent Systems. One of the key allies Dooku sought was Nute Gunray, who had led the Trade Federation invasion of Naboo. The bitter Neimoidian still bore a grudge against Amidala for his defeat there, and made her death a condition of his bringing the Trade Federation into the CIS.

The Contract

Count Dooku contracted his favourite bounty hunter Jango Fett to kill Senator Amidala. In turn, Jango sub-contracted the job to the Clawdite hunter Zam Wesell. Using information supplied by Fett, Wesell planted a bomb on the Senator's landing platform on Coruscant, prior to the arrival of the gleaming Naboo starship and its fighter escort bringing Amidala back to vote against the Military Creation Act. The Clawdite hunter detonated her bomb remotely, destroying the Diplomatic Barge and killing Amidala – or so she thought. In fact, it was Amidala's handmaiden bodyguard Cordé who died, along with a number of others. Amidala, disguised as a Naboo starfighter pilot, escaped. Zam Wesell would have to try again.

CAPTAIN TYPHO

PROTECTOR OF SENATOR PADMÉ AMIDALA

There are many tales of personal tragedy, betrayal and loss bound up in the conflicts of the Clone Wars. The life of Captain Gregar Typho of the Royal Naboo Security Force is one such story.

Gregar Typho was brought up with a passionate belief in duty, honour and personal responsibility. Brought up near the Royal Palace in Theed, Typho pursued his desire to join the Royal Naboo Security Force, and he became an outstanding young athlete. His uncle, Panaka, was an officer in the Security Force, but neither Panaka nor Typho was interested in Gregar being given a place in the organisation through family connections. Typho sought training off-world, and his dedication paid off in an appointment to the Junior Palace Guard.

Invasion

Ensuring his time in the Junior Guard was exemplary, Typho was inducted into the Security Force in the flurry of promotions that arose from the abdication of King Veruna and the election of Queen Amidala. Typho was still a teenager when the Trade Federation invaded Naboo. Though Amidala ordered that there be no armed opposition to the droid armies, Typho joined the small resistance movement that formed when Amidala and Panaka, now in charge of the Security Force, fled the planet. When Panaka and the Queen returned, Typho was part of the force that infiltrated Theed and battled the occupying droid army. It was at this time that Typho sustained serious injuries, including the loss of an eye. A genetic quirk made it impossible for him to receive a cloned replacement.

PROFILE

Affiliation
Royal Naboo Security Forces/ Royal Guard

Birth planet
Naboo

Height
1.85 metres

Weapon
blaster pistol

Gregar would not entertain the concept of a 'droid's eye' cybernetic alternative, so he chose to wear a patch instead.

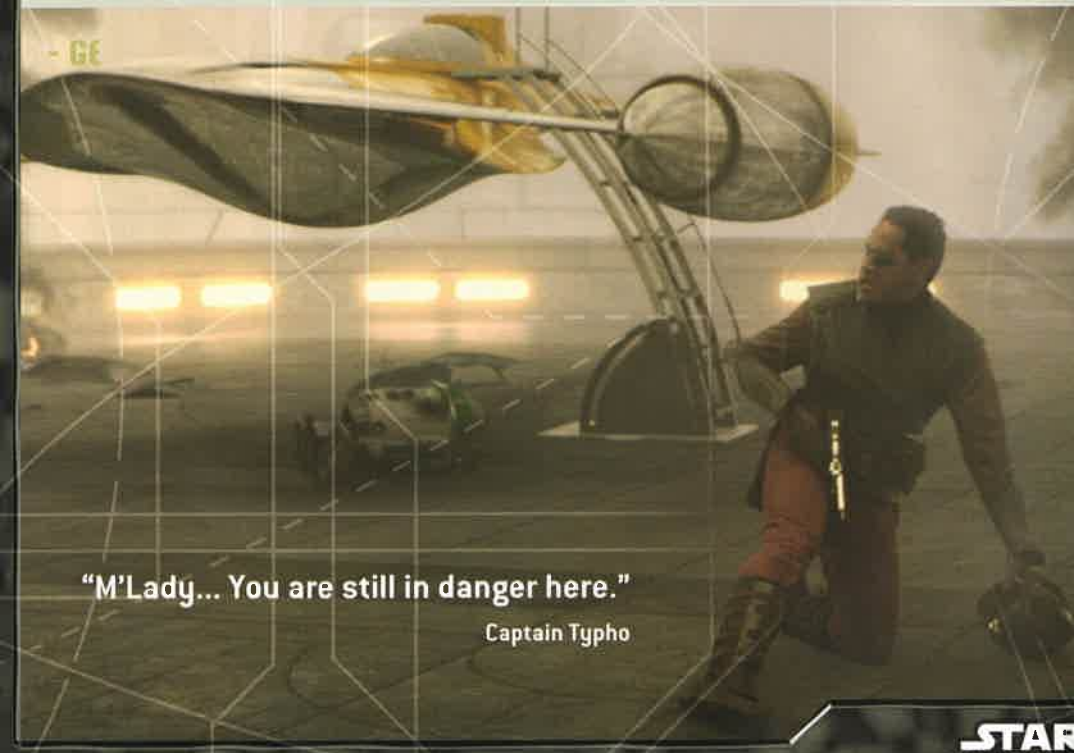
HARD-EARNED PROMOTION

Gregar Typho's selfless sacrifice and ability as a leader gained him the rank of Lieutenant by the end of Queen Amidala's second term in office. Panaka remained both head of the Security Force and the chief

bodyguard to the newly elected Queen Jamillia. Padmé Amidala was chosen to become the Senator for Naboo. When she was assigned her own security detail, Gregar Typho was chosen to lead it.

Tough Job

Captain Typho quickly showed why he was the best man for the job, organising the Senator's security detail with professional passion. He consulted closely with Panaka, building on the handmaiden bodyguard system that his uncle had begun. Though Amidala always listened to Captain Typho, she did not always do as she was told, often dismissing his concerns and putting herself in danger. Still, Gregar found he loved his senatorial charge – deep feelings he put to one side, the better to do his job. One occasion when Padmé did listen to Typho was when she returned to Coruscant for the vote on the Military Creation Act. On arrival, the Naboo Cruiser was destroyed by a bomb, killing Cordé, the decoy Senator, and many on board. A disguised Amidala was hurried away. Typho was delighted when two Jedi were assigned



"M'Lady... You are still in danger here."

Captain Typho

Uniform

Efforts were made to ensure that the detailing and cut of Captain Typho's uniform were sufficiently different to indicate the passage of time from *The Phantom Menace* to *Attack of the Clones*, and also to indicate a different office from that held by Panaka. Jay Laga'ala, who played Typho, found that the eye patch he wore made it difficult to hit his marks on set, as he had no depth perception.

to guard Padme, as she still refused to acknowledge the danger she was in.

War Is Declared

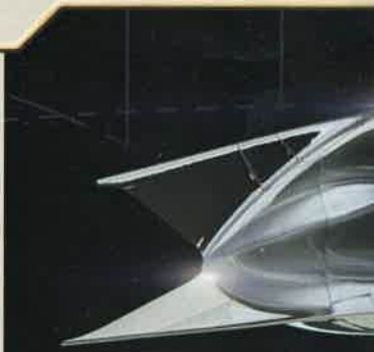
After a second attempt on the Senator's life was foiled by the Jedi, it was decided that Amidala be smuggled off Coruscant to Naboo under the protection of Anakin Skywalker. Reluctantly, Typho remained on Coruscant with one of Padmé's doubles to give the impression that the Senator was still there. Of course, Padmé was soon in trouble again, though Typho could do nothing. The Clone Wars began on Geonosis, and soon Gregar's job became all the harder.

Tragedy

Though Typho did what he could, staying by Amidala's side when she let him, it was not his destiny to save the woman he loved. She was killed on Mustafar, and Typho was left to mourn and to wonder if things would have been different had he been there. Typho began a long, dedicated investigation of Padmé's death, and when he discovered that Darth Vader had killed Padmé, confronted the Sith. Gregar was struck down, but with his dying words he condemned Vader for Padme's murder, and took some satisfaction from the pain her name caused her killer.

THE NABOO ROYAL H-TYPE NUBIAN YACHT

THE SENATOR'S CHOICE

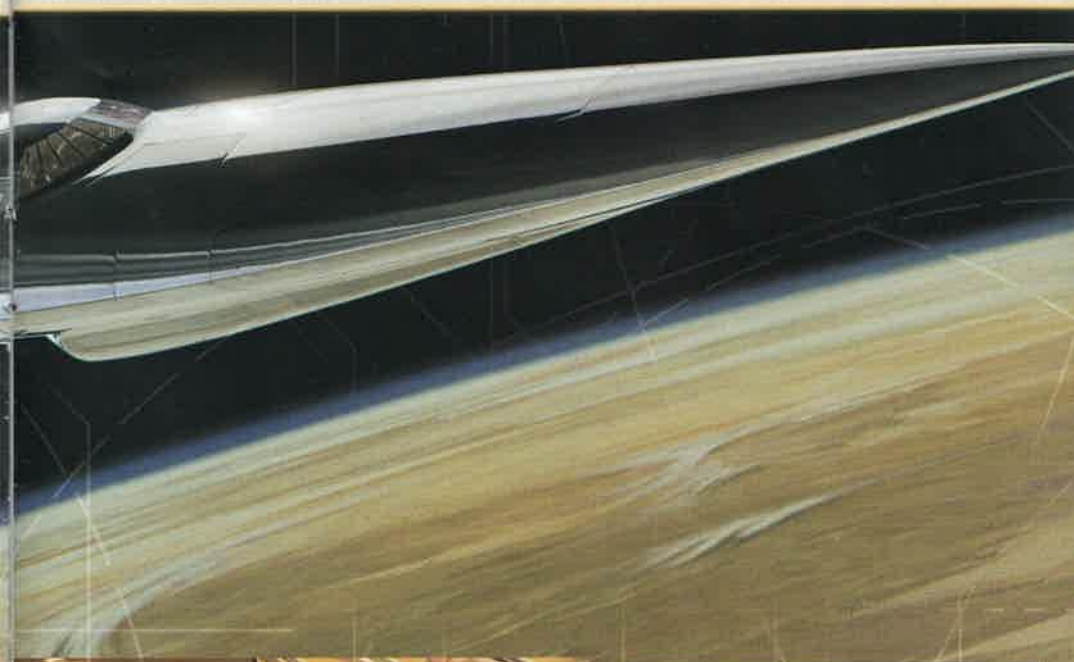


Senator Padmé Amidala first used the sleek H-type Nubian yacht to travel from Naboo to Tatooine and then on to Geonosis at the very start of the Clone Wars. This and other H-types were to become Padmé's ship of choice during the three-year-conflict.

The H-type Nubian yachts were commissioned by the Royal House of Naboo, and were built by the same partnership between the Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps and the Nubian Design Collective that built the other chrome-coated Royal starships – the J-type 327 Royal Starship and the J-type Diplomatic Barge. However, the yachts were rarely, if ever, used by Naboo royalty. Instead, Senator Padmé Amidala made extensive use of the craft.

Sleek, Slight, Swift

The design of the H-type is compact and yet hugely comfortable. It was conceived out of a need to provide a small, hard-to-detect vessel able to smuggle key Naboo personnel, particularly the monarch, out of danger quickly. The fast little yachts were heavily shielded, were packed with an impressive array of electronic countermeasures and jamming systems, and the engines were baffled to further minimise the ship's sensor signature. All of this helped Padmé and Anakin Skywalker slip undetected onto Geonosis to try to rescue Obi-Wan Kenobi. Though the vessels served her well, Senator Amidala lost a number of H-type yachts during the Clone Wars. One was sacrificed to escape the *Malevolence*, General Grievous' flagship, and another was destroyed by Jar Jar Binks in an accident on Rodia.



A classic design

This vessel is a homage to the science fiction of the 'Golden Age', from the late 1930s to the 1950s. Its slim form recalls the typical outline of the rockets that were depicted in popular comic books and on book jackets. The streamlined form appropriate to an atmospheric craft was unnecessary in the vacuum of space. However, such lines, influenced by Earth's first ballistic missile, the V2 of 1944, continued to dominate the public perception of space travel for many years until the first satellites were launched in the late 1950s.

Royal Naboo Yacht PROFILE

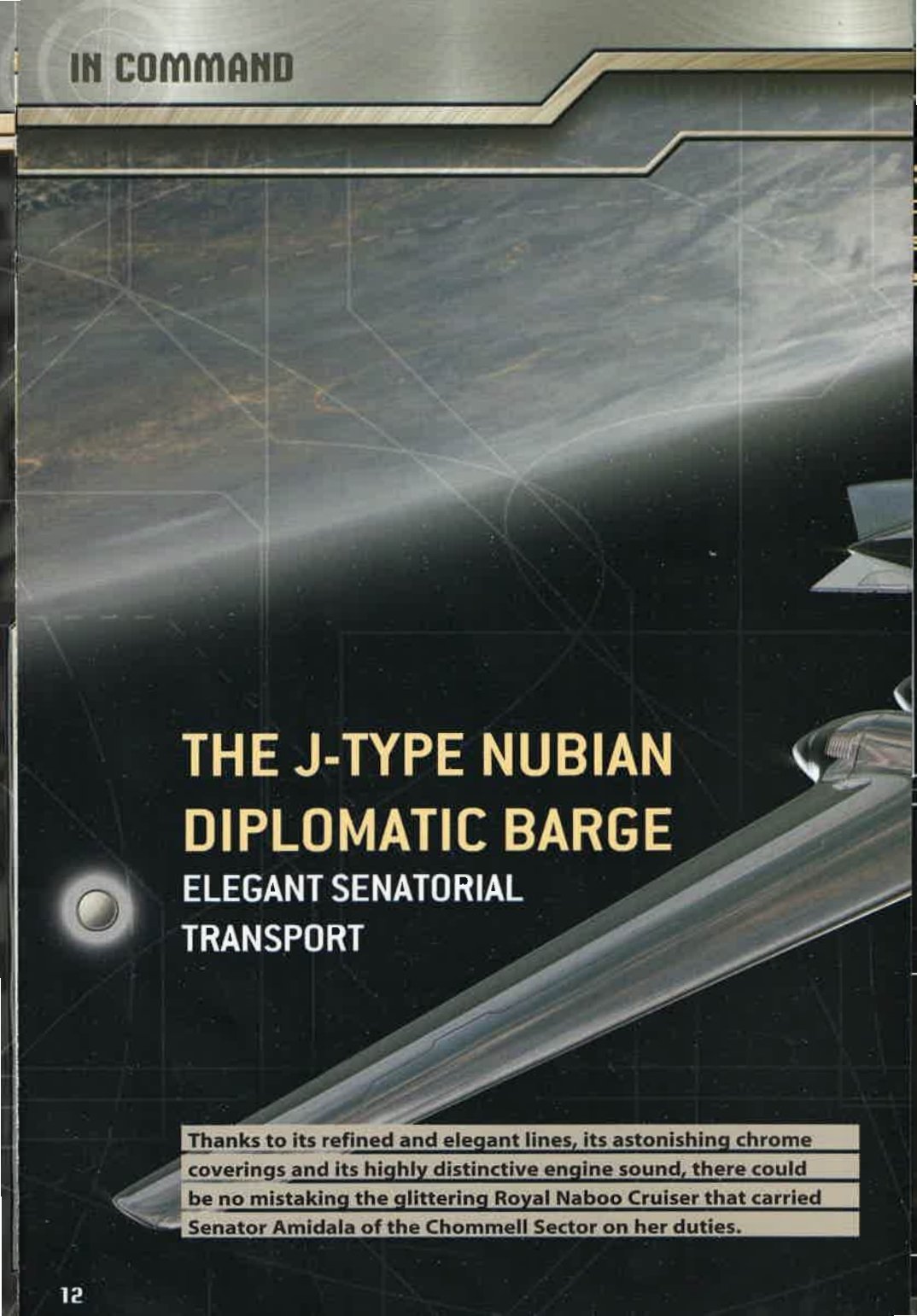
Type
Customised H-type Nubian Yacht

Manufacturer
Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps & Nubian Design Collective

Size
length 47.9m, width 8.1m, height 7.1m

Weapons
none

Affiliation:
Naboo Royal House



THE J-TYPE NUBIAN DIPLOMATIC BARGE

ELEGANT SENATORIAL TRANSPORT

Thanks to its refined and elegant lines, its astonishing chrome coverings and its highly distinctive engine sound, there could be no mistaking the glittering Royal Naboo Cruiser that carried Senator Amidala of the Chommell Sector on her duties.

THE ROYAL NABOO CRUISER

Type
Custom-built J-type Nubian Diplomatic Barge

Manufacturer
Theed Palace Space Vessel Engineering Corps & Nubian Design Collective

Size
Length 39m, width 91m, height 6.8m

Maximum Acceleration
2.500G (open space)

Maximum Speed
2000kph (in atmosphere)

Engines
4x J-type sublight engines, 2x Nubian S-6 hyperdrive generators

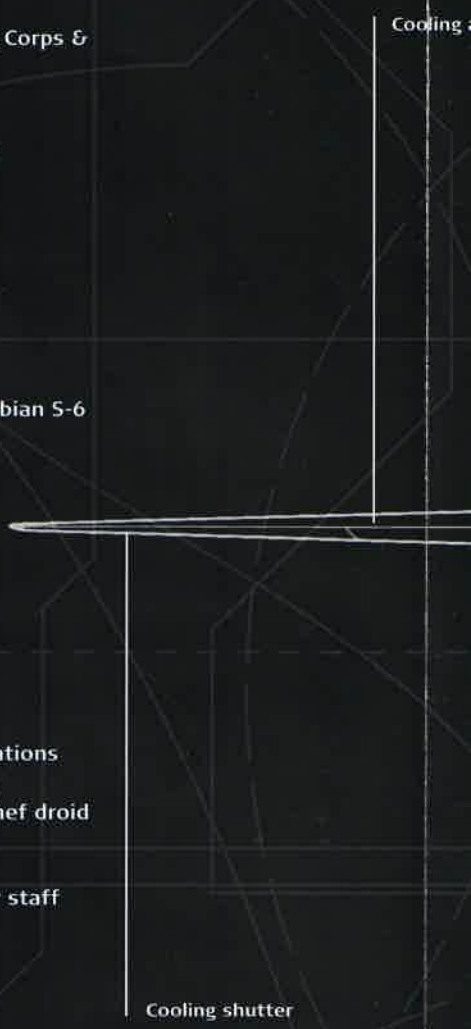
Hyperdrive
Class 0.7, range 80,000 lightyears

Weapons
None

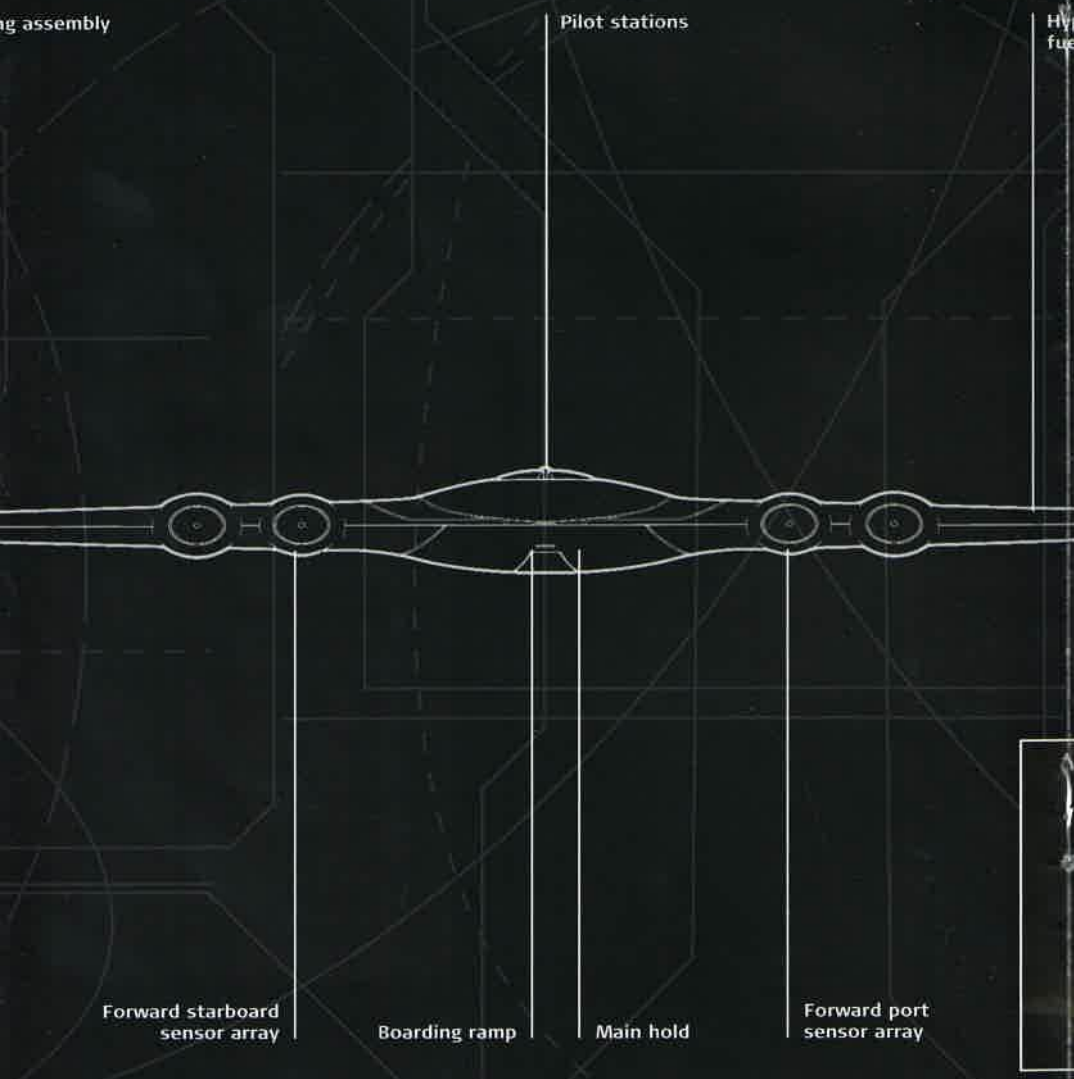
Crew
1x pilot, 1x co-pilot, 1x navigator, 1x communications officer, 1x shield operator, 5x astromech droids, 1x chef droid

Passengers
4x diplomats, 6x security staff

Affiliation
Naboo



The J-type Diplomatic Barge, also called the Naboo Cruiser, was origi
the Royal Starship used by Queen Amidala. However, it was decided t
given to Senator Amidala. The ship's design reflected the harsh lesso
Amidala's escape through the Trade Federation blockade during the i



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repulsor array

Fighter
recharge
socket

Cooling assembly

Magnetic

Forward starboard
sensor array

Accommoda

The Diploma
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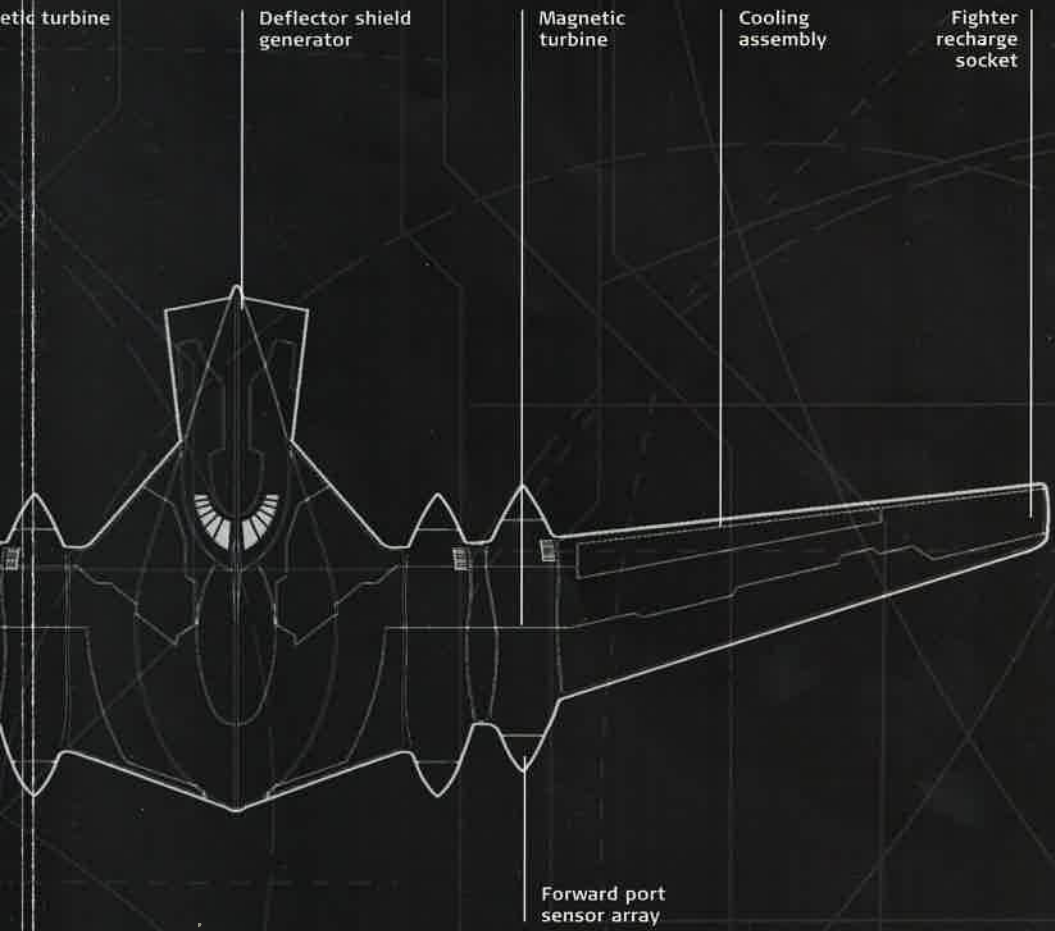


odation

matic Barge was designed to make it easy for Amidala to carry out her difficult duties throughout mell Sector and beyond. The Senator's compact but ble personal quarters were at the very front of the d opened onto the main conference room. Amidala's chief and handmaiden bodyguards had smaller quarters ust off this room. To cater for the Senator, her team guests, a galley kitchen was nearby, complete with a oid chef. The remaining ship's crew had sleeping bunks ar of the ship.

CORDÉ

ILL-FATED BODYGUARD TO SENATOR AMIDALA

After Padmé Amidala became Senator for the Chommell Sector, the Royal Naboo Security Force leadership appointed Gregar Typho as her head of security. Typho maintained the tradition of the handmaiden bodyguards who had surrounded Amidala as Queen. One of these was Cordé.

As with all of Queen Amidala's handmaidens, the young women selected for the role of the Senator's bodyguard were picked because they resembled Padmé in height, build and looks. Several of Padmé's bodyguards from her time as Queen stayed with her, while others retired and were replaced. All of the new candidates underwent the same rigorous training that had been undertaken by Padmé and all the others, overseen this time by Typho. The difficult and dangerous role of 'decoy prime' (the first-choice handmaiden to impersonate the Senator) had been filled by Sabé but Cordé took over when Sabé opted to become part of the Coruscant-based diplomatic corps that the Naboo maintained at the Senate – working particularly to keep Jar Jar Binks out of trouble.

Friends To The End

Cordé, like her predecessor, worked very closely with Padmé, and the two became close friends. As the galaxy headed deeper into the divisive Separatist Crisis, Cordé was often called on to impersonate her friend, despite Senator Amidala's reluctance to put others in danger. When the Senator was to return to Coruscant to vote in opposition to the Military Creation Act, Cordé was once again called on to adopt the clothes, voice and mannerisms of Padmé. It would be for the last time. The Naboo Cruiser arrived on Coruscant safely enough, landing on the floating docking platform under high security. Padmé was disguised as an N-1 starfighter pilot, with Typho as her wingman. As Cordé came down the cruiser's ramp, Zam Wesell detonated a remote bomb that destroyed the ship and killed many of the crew. Cordé herself died apologising to Padmé for not having sensed the attack earlier.

Behind The Scenes

Cordé was, in fact, played by three people – by Natalie Portman for interior shots in the cruiser, by a stunt woman for the explosion, and by Veronica Segura for the death scene.

PROFILE

Cordé

Homeworld
Naboo

Species
Human

Height
1.57m

Weapons
blaster pistol, ascension gun

Affiliation
Royal Naboo Security Force

CORUSCANT
SENATOR PADMÉ AMIDALA'S APARTMENT

Because she spent so much time on Coruscant as Senator for the Chommell Sector, Padmé Amidala maintained a penthouse apartment in the luxurious Senate Apartment Complex. The secure building offered easy access to the Senate Rotunda.

On her appointment as Senator for Naboo and the whole Chommell Sector, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine ensured that Padmé Amidala would have an apartment befitting her status and also suiting her style. While other Senators had immense, opulent, multi-floor suites decorated at the expense of their people, Senator Amidala's comfortable Coruscant home was simple, modest and elegant. Palpatine also gave Padmé exclusive use of a guest suite at the very exclusive 500 Republica building, though she seldom used it. However, having two addresses did grant the Senator an additional degree of security.

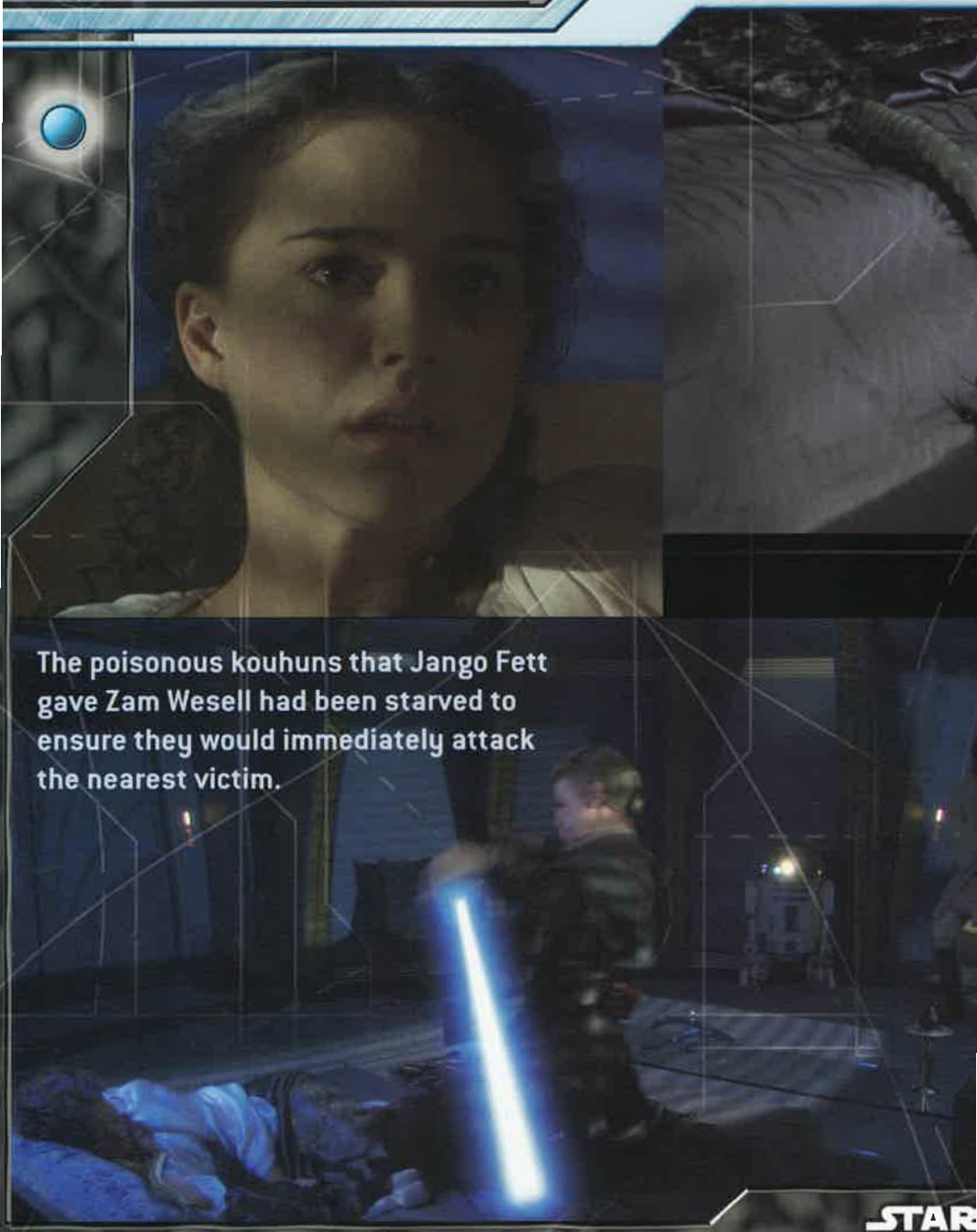
Prime Real Estate

The Senate Apartment Complex was located in the Senate District of Coruscant, a short hop from the Senate Rotunda. Its position made it a much sought-after address, so Palpatine's gift to Padmé was not a small favour. Her rooms even had a view out to the Jedi Temple, something Palpatine hoped would comfort Amidala on her visits to Coruscant.

The levels located immediately below her suite were home to Padmé's support staff and security teams, and her head of security, Captain Typho, maintained guards on all floors of the building.

No Easy Access

Amidala's own apartments were reached by a turbolift on the outside of the building. Even getting this far meant passing through numerous security checks. The lift opened onto a central lounge area, its curved ceiling made up of large transparisteel windows. This was where Padmé met with her most trusted allies, including Bail Organa, Mon Mothma and various other Senators and officials who made up the so-called Delegation of 2000, who opposed Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's growing power.



The poisonous kouhuns that Jango Fett gave Zam Wesell had been starved to ensure they would immediately attack the nearest victim.

Dormé

On the deaths of both Cordé and Versé in the bombing of the Naboo Cruiser, Dormé took over in the role of Senator Amidala's senior handmaiden bodyguard. As with all of the handmaidens, she had a close relationship with Padmé. Dormé stayed behind on Coruscant to maintain the illusion that the Senator was still there, while Padmé travelled in secret to Naboo with Anakin Skywalker.

Inner Sanctum

From the central lounge meeting area, a short corridor led down to Padmé's bedroom and to her open-air veranda with its incredible views over Coruscant. This simple space, with its two statues of Shiraya, the Naboo Moon Goddess, was a favourite spot for Padmé to spend some contemplative time alone. Though private, the veranda did include a speeder dock that was additionally fitted out to allow N-1 starfighters to dock – useful when Padmé was to disguise herself as one of her own N-1 escort.

Having just missed Senator Amidala with her remote bomb, Zam Wesell tried again at Padmé's home in the Senate Apartment Complex. Fellow bounty hunter Jango Fett gave Zam a pair of voracious kouhuns – 30 centimetre long, multi-legged arthropods that were deadly poisonous. Zam used a modified ASN-121 courier droid in which she installed new software to bypass the apartment security systems, and a cutter to remove a section of window and release the creatures to attack the sleeping Senator. Fortunately, Padmé was by then under the protection of two Jedi guardians – Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker. They sensed the attack just in time, running into Padmé's bedroom, where Anakin killed the kouhuns with two sweeps of his lightsaber.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

EPISODE II'S INNOVATION

When director George Lucas announced that *Star Wars: Episode II* was going to be the first major film project to be shot entirely digitally, the news caused quite a stir in the industry. What was the excitement about?

While movies changed a lot since they first started making them a hundred years ago, the way a film-based motion picture camera works remained much the same. The mechanical process involves a lot of moving parts, gears, and machinery, all of it designed to move film through the camera. The new digital cameras Lucas proposed to use didn't need film or moving parts at all, and that was the big breakthrough.

High Technology

Using a prototype digital acquisition system consisting of a Panavision modified Sony HDW-F900 integrated camera recorder, a series of carefully prescribed tests were initiated by teams from ILM and Lucasfilm working in conjunction with Sony and Panavision. These tests convinced George Lucas and producer Rick McCallum of the benefits of shooting in digital 24P at 1920 x 1080 HD sampling. In November 1999, Sony delivered the Phase I prototype camcorder to Panavision, whose technicians physically converted the camcorders to accept their own newly developed cinematography lenses and associated accessories.

Last Tests

Following preliminary system testing at Panavision, the ILM / Lucasfilm tests were initiated in January 2000 and continued through February and early March. These tests included separate optical, digital camera, and digital recording tests, ultimately leading to integrated system operational testing. The latter encompassed subsequent computer processing of the digitally captured images. "The tests were really quite astonishing," said Jim Morris, president of Lucas Digital. "The image

One Giant Step

Speaking before filming of Episode II began, George Lucas said, "The tests have convinced me that the familiar look and feel of motion picture film are fully present in this digital 24P system and that the picture quality between the two is indistinguishable on the large screen... *Star Wars*: Episode II is our first giant step."

quality of the new Sony camera and the Panavision lenses exceeded our expectations, and really validate the 24P system as a great new tool for moviemaking. All of our hopes about digital capture for the big screen have started to be realised, and we are extremely jazzed by the possibilities."

A New Era!

"This is the exciting dawn of a new era in moviemaking," said *Star Wars* producer Rick McCallum at the time. "There is no turning back. It is being born within an environment of super teamwork among our people at ILM and Lucasfilm, and the folks at Panavision and Sony."

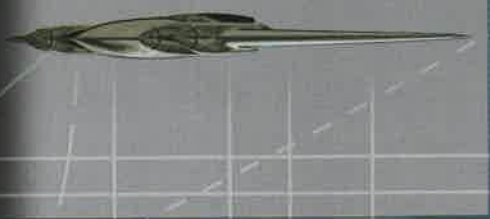
THE NABOO J-TYPE DIPLOMATIC BARGE

A DIGITAL VISION

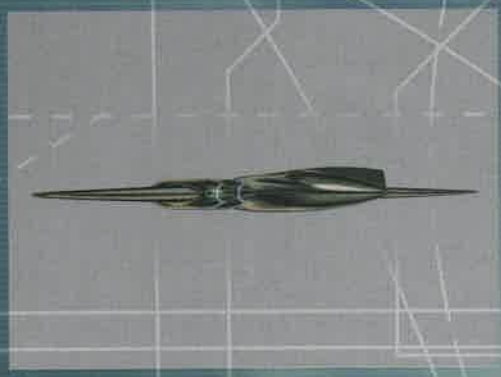
THE CREATION OF THE NABOO ROYAL CRUISER

1 The original computer model of the approved Doug Chiang concept was created by John Goodson. The glittering finish is still to be rendered.

2 A similar view of the digital model of Senator Amidala's ship, now with its chrome finish applied, dating from November 2001.

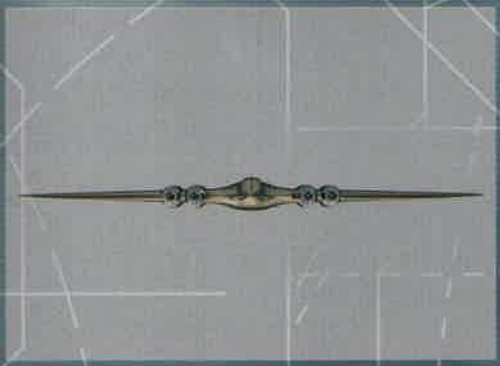


5 The flames and smoke of the explosion were real, with the stunt sequence filmed on the Fox studio backlot. Above: Left side front 45 degree view.

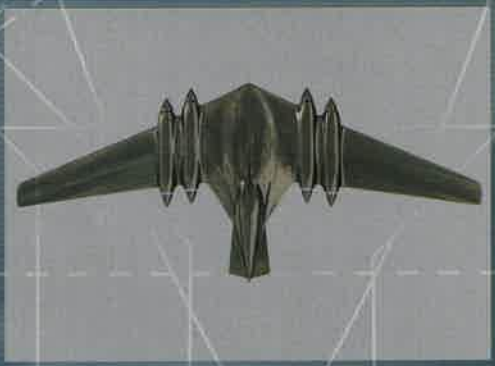


6 The slim profile of the streamlined vessel is revealed by this rear 45 degree view taken from the left side.

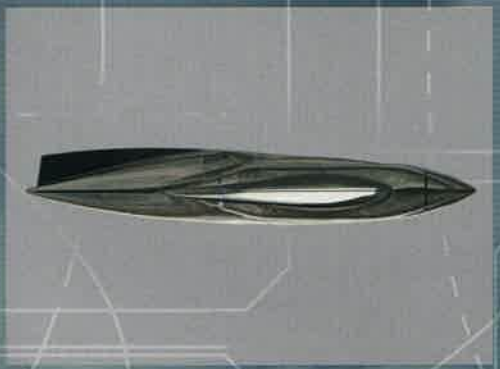
To create the concept sketches of the Naboo Cruiser, Doug Chiang moved away from the usual black-and-white sketch art. Instead, the concepts were created digitally to show off the desired chrome finish. "They knew it was going to be chrome" Chiang said, "so I took pictures of chrome textures and digitally painted them."



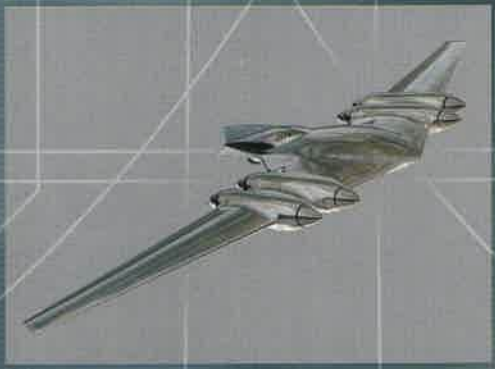
3 A front view of the digital model. The entire opening sequence of the Naboo Cruiser arriving on Coruscant was a digital creation...



4 ...where the swirling digital clouds made for a sinister environment, reinforced by the music. Above: Top view of the digital model.



7 Another view, taken from the right side of the cruiser, showing the bulbous passenger compartment in the centre of the ship.



8 "Padmé's ship was based on the stealth bomber. I also added the twin engines as a tribute to the B-52 bomber," said Doug Chiang.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Can you name Senator Amidala's handmaiden bodyguards?

2 Who wrote the famous opening text crawl for Episode IV?

3 Before her death in the explosion on Coruscant, which handmaiden most often impersonated Senator Amidala?

ANSWERS:

1. Dormé, Cordé, Versé, Moteé, Ellé and Teckla Minnau

2. The crawl was written by George Lucas, then polished by his friends Brian De Palma, Jay Cocks, Gloria Katz and Willard Huyck.

3. Cordé.

J

Juhani

Character
Expanded Universe

One of the last surviving members of the Cathar species, Juhani was a Force-sensitive female who grew up on Taris after her parents fled the Genocide of Cathar during the Mandalorian Wars, nearly four thousand years before the Battle of Yavin. Her father was killed, and her mother died trying to provide for them. Rescued from slavery, Juhani was freed by a Jedi called Revan who, sensing her latent Force abilities, encouraged Juhani to join the Jedi Order. Trained on Dantooine, Juhani's temper caused her to fall to the dark side, but she was rescued again by Revan. In turn, she helped Revan return from the dark side and destroy the Star Forge – an immense automated shipyard that was once home to a powerful Sith lord.

Jukassa, Zett

Character
Episodes II & III

The tragic fate of Zett Jukassa was to have unforeseen circumstances for the Empire and the galaxy. Born on Mon Gazza in the Outer Rim 29 years before the Battle of Yavin, Zett was found to be Force sensitive and was sent to the Jedi Temple. When he was seven years old, his parents were murdered. Subsequently, Zett began to have visions of his parents and homeworld, visions that allowed Jedi Knight Mierme Unill to investigate the murders. The culprits were arrested, and Zett became Unill's Padawan until Unill was killed in the Clone Wars. Zett was at the Jedi Temple when Darth Vader led the 501st Legion to destroy the Jedi. Fighting his way out of the Temple, he nearly made it to Bail Organa's speeder before he was shot down. Organa, now fully aware of what was going on, fled the Temple and then Coruscant, and was instrumental in rescuing Yoda and Obi-Wan, securing the Jedi legacy for the future. (Zett Jukassa was played by George Lucas' son, Jett, in Episodes II and III.)

JN-66

Droid
Episode II

The JN-66 analysis droid series was manufactured by Cybot Galactica and used by the Jedi Order in their archives and medical facilities. The utility droids hovered on repulsorlifts. Their advanced, complex brains and sensors made them extremely expensive, despite the fact that many of their systems and much of their structure were from the cheaper, more robust PK-series worker droids.

Juri Juice

Drink
Episode IV

Served across the galaxy, and coming in a variety of flavours and potency, the basic ingredients of Juri Juice were both intoxicating and highly addictive. Properly served in jars, the most sought-after (and illegal) version of the drink had fresh Rodian blood as its principal flavouring ingredient. Mos Eisley Cantina served particularly powerful Juri Juice, and counted the female Chadra-Fan called Kabe as one of its many pathetic addicts.

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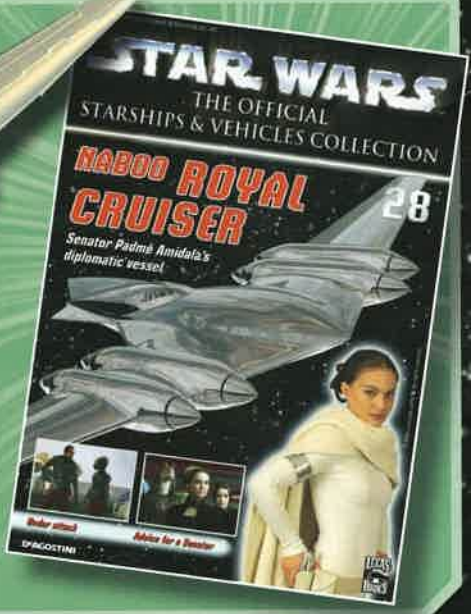

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